



***Aboriginal news from across Turtle Island and beyond
April 8-12, 2013***

**UPDATE: Russell, other protesters face obstruction charges,
RCMP say**

[St. John's Telegram](#)

April 5, 2013

Derek Montague and Ashley Fitzpatrick



RCMP make arrests during a protest in Happy Valley-Goose Bay aimed at drawing attention the NunatuKavut Community Council's opposition to Nalcor Energy's Lower Churchill hydro project. — Photo by Derek

In the hours after the arrests of NunatuKavut Community Council president Todd Russell and other protesters this morning on the Trans Labrador Highway, the number of protesters at the scene grew at one point to about 50 people.

Happy Valley-Goose Bay RCMP said they arrested eight protesters for blocking a highway used by workers travelling to the Muskrat Falls site. The incident occurred about 10 kilometres from the Muskrat Falls project site in an area known as the south coast turnoff. Traffic had been backed up for at least a kilometre.

RCMP say the protestors are charged with obstructing police officers and will appear in provincial court at a later date.

Kirk Lethbridge, spokesman for NunatuKavut Community Council, told The Telegram the protest against the Muskrat Falls project will continue.

"They said we were obstructing traffic," Lethbridge said. "We were milling around an intersection and a whole bunch of vehicles stopped."

"It is civil disobedience of a non-violent nature as we have always employed. And it is ironic that aboriginal peoples in other parts of the country of Canada can blockade for weeks and not be arrested and, here in Labrador, we stand in an intersection for two hours and we have eight people carried away, including our president, in handcuffs.

"For decades now, our leaders have been trying to enter into meaningful negotiations with the province on many issues, including Muskrat Falls, hunting rights, land rights and our aboriginal rights — and our land claim." The group of protesters contained both young and old. Some even travelled from the south coast of Labrador to wave signs and delay traffic coming to and from Muskrat Falls.

Some the protesters indicated they want the Labrador Métis to be consulted and compensated in regards to Muskrat Falls. Others wanted the project stopped citing environmental impacts.

Around noon, the protesters stood in front of transport trucks that were getting on and off the south coast turnoff. RCMP moved in again to remind protesters not to block traffic. The protesters then stood in front of the trucks and walked an inch forward at a time allowing the trucks to move slowly.

Yvonne Jones, Liberal candidate for the upcoming federal byelection in Labrador, made an appearance at the scene. She shook hands and greeted the protestors.

"If you want to be a leader in Labrador, you need to listen to what everybody has to say," Jones said. "People here this morning, they have a message. I think that every politician wanting to represent Labrador today, they should be down here. Show some respect to people who have issues and concerns, and talk to them."

The crowd dwindled a bit at noon to about two dozen.

The Innu have a claim in Labrador recognized by the federal government and major project proponents like Nalcor Energy. So, too, do the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, whose settled land claim covers many coastal communities and the Torngat Mountains area in northern Labrador.

The NunatuKavut Community Council have yet to have their asserted claim accepted for negotiation by the federal government.

A recent federal ruling recognized the rights of Metis people — regardless of whether a claim was accepted or not — but the NunatuKavut Community Council is not categorized as a Metis group. The provincial government has stated they are considered "Inuit of Southern Labrador" as a result of past filings to government and in the courts.

With no recognized claim, the province and many corporations have refused to negotiate direct benefits for NunatuKavut's members.

On March 27, the NunatuKavut Community Council issued a statement noting their frustrations over what council members say has been a lack of fair consultation on the part of the provincial government regarding the Lower Churchill hydro project.

That statement warned the council was "beefing up its resources to protect its lands and waters and its aboriginal rights and interests in Labrador," and was in the process of establishing an "on-the-ground action planning committee."

The 10-seat committee has been created to plan and carryout protest actions, as directed by the board of the NunatuKavut Community Council.

The NunatuKavut Community Council has led previous protest actions against the Lower Churchill development, leading to a court order requiring members to stay away from work areas associated with the project.

Landmark Federal Court Ruling Ensures Equal Care for Pictou Landing First Nation Teenager: Jordan's Principle legally binding for the first time in Canada

[Halifax Media Co-op](#)

April 5, 2013

Moira Peters



Jeremy Meawasige loves music, and will be able to remain at home under the care of his mother, thanks to yesterday's ruling by Federal Court Justice Mandamin. photo: Moira Peters



Maurina Beadle (foreground) at a rally in May 2011, raising awareness of the importance of Jordan's Principle. photo: Moira Peters

K'JIPUKTUK (HALIFAX)--It's an exciting day for Jeremy Meawasige, a young Pictou Landing First Nation teenager with multiple disabilities, his mother, Maurina Beadle, and Philippa Pictou, Health Director for Pictou Landing.

"I'm so excited, I could hardly sleep [last night], and every time I fell sleep, I dreamed about Jordan's Principle," said Pictou by phone this morning. In a historic ruling by the Supreme Court, the Pictou Landing Band Council will be reimbursed for all costs associated with caring for Jeremy while he lives with his mother--who three years ago had a double stroke that left her unable to continue caring for her son as she had been doing for his whole life.

Jeremy's case was heard in Nova Scotia in June, 2012. It was the first time that Jordan's Principle, a child-first policy designed to ensure that First Nations children receive the same health care that non-Native kids do, was invoked. The Principle was passed unanimously in the House of Commons in 2007 after Jordan River Anderson, a Cree child in Manitoba, died in hospital while waiting for the provincial and federal governments to duke it out over which level of government was responsible for paying for his home care. In spite of broad support, Jordan's Principle has never been implemented in Canada.

The court victory has widespread implications for cases similar to Jeremy's across Canada.

"It's so exciting that children across the country will now be able to access the care they need through Jordan's Principle," said Pictou.

The ruling, as a precedent, also has the potential to open up cases in other social services where First Nations people tend to fall through jurisdictional cracks because of their Aboriginal status.

The major challenge in cases of jurisdictional disputes--where levels of government argue over which is responsible for funding a given situation--often hinge on the denial of the existence of a jurisdictional dispute. Such was the argument by the crown in Jeremy's case, which outlined agreement between the federal and provincial governments about how much funding Pictou Landing Band Council ought

to receive to support Beadle and her son on-reserve--but that amount was less than what was granted to an off-reserve child in Nova Scotia in a previous case. As Justice Mandamin (the only First Nations judge on the federal bar) states in his ruling on Jeremy's case:

"I do not think the principle in a Jordan's Principle case is to be read narrowly. The absence of a monetary dispute cannot be determinative where officials of both levels of government maintain an erroneous position on what is available to persons in need...and both then assert there is no jurisdictional dispute."

He goes on to say, "Jordan's Principle would have been meant to include services for exceptional cases...While there is an administratively prescribed maximum...for in-home services in Nova Scotia, the statutorily mandated policy has been found to encompass exceptional cases that may exceed that minimum."

Pictou recently returned from a conference on Jordan's Principle in Manitoba, where health workers and First Nations groups gathered to strategize around building better health care systems for First Nations children, discussing in particular the potential power of Jordan's Principle. Pictou is not unambitious about the implications of yesterday's court ruling.

"Implementing Jordan's Principle is about having good relationships between government and First Nations, which is what the Idle No More movement is all about," said Pictou. "So this is another opportunity for us to build better relationships with government to provide better care for children who need it."

Maurina Beadle was unavailable for interview at the time of publication, but sources say she is "over the moon" with the news of the victory.

For backgrounders about Jeremy, Maurina and the court case, see previous coverage in The Dominion and the Halifax Media Co-op:

Peace River Tops BC's Most Endangered Rivers List for 2013: Lower Fraser and Elk Rivers Follow Close Behind

[Marketwired](#)

April 8, 2013

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA--(Marketwired - April 8, 2013) - The Peace River near Fort St. John, which is threatened by a third major dam that would flood more than 80 km of the last largely natural stretch of this river, is BC's most endangered river in 2013. The proposed dam, known as Site C, is currently in the environmental assessment stage and approval could be forthcoming in the next year or so.

"If the dam goes ahead, it would have numerous environmental impacts, including the loss of key wintering wildlife habitat. Recreational values would also be severely diminished, many sacred cultural sites would be lost and the only class 1 agricultural land north of Quesnel would be flooded," said Mark Angelo, Rivers Chair for the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) of British Columbia.

Local opposition to the dam is widespread and passionate amongst both aboriginal and non aboriginal groups and all affected First Nations are unanimously against the dam. The dam also carries an 8 billion dollar price tag for a crown corporation that already has a huge debt that's close to being unmanageable.

Perhaps most significantly, the most recent BC Hydro electricity forecast shows no existing domestic need for the Site C dam and states that BC now has a surplus of power for domestic use expected to last for at least several years, if not longer.

"Given the dam's adverse impacts, the extensive local opposition and the current surplus of power recently documented by BC Hydro, the case for the dam has largely vanished," added Mark Angelo, a recipient of both the Order of BC and the Order of Canada for his river conservation efforts.

While BC Hydro forecasts show that power from Site C would not be needed for a number of years, some have stated the dam should go ahead to provide power for proposed liquefied natural gas plants (although their construction still remains very uncertain). However, to build Site C just to support a possible future LNG plant would be a huge environmental and economic subsidy that the ORC opposes. If LNG plants ever do come to fruition, alternative means to power them should be pursued.

In second spot on this year's list is the lower Fraser River with a particular emphasis on the Heart of the Fraser located between the towns of Hope and Mission, one of the most productive stretches of river in the world. "Given its proximity to greater Vancouver, this extraordinary part of the Fraser faces an assortment of development pressures and is in severe need of a collaborative plan if its many values are to be protected", said Angelo.

In third position is the Elk River near Fernie. This waterway is threatened by rising selenium levels that are leaching from nearby open pit coal mines. "While the province recently announced a moratorium on new coal mines until selenium pollution is controlled, there must be a much more expedited effort to reduce toxic run-off from existing mines," stated Angelo.

Of the waterways highlighted this year as "rivers to watch" is the Coquitlam. This year marks the first time in many years that the Coquitlam has fallen off the main endangered rivers list. This is due to progress on several fronts, including the establishment of watershed round table and the implementation of a monitoring program that showed some improvement in controlling silt run-off from nearby gravel mines. However, an expanded monitoring program, under varying conditions, is required if concerns about excessive siltation are to be fully alleviated.

Also on the "rivers to watch" list is the Tamihi Creek, a small Fraser Valley waterway that has become a poster child of sorts for the need to better protect streams with exceptional recreational values from independent power projects. "There must be better planning mechanisms by which selected streams with exceptional natural or recreational values can be protected from private power development," said Angelo.

As one scans the rivers that are profiled this year, it's important to note that this year's list is not meant to be all-inclusive and there are clearly other issues, such as "northern gateway", or the Kettle River, that ORC will continue to follow. But this year's abbreviated list focuses on those issues deemed by members to be most imminent at this point in time.

"The annual endangered rivers release, now in its 21st year, helps to create a greater awareness of the many threats that confront our waterways", Angelo added. "And while we should be strengthening mechanisms to protect rivers, the ORC is dismayed by the recent weakening of habitat provisions in federal river-related legislation, such as the Federal Fisheries Act and the Navigable Water Protection Act."

Each year, the ORC solicits and reviews nominations for BC's Most Endangered Rivers from its member groups representing close to 100,000 members across BC.

BC's Most Endangered Rivers of 2013;

1. Peace River (hydro-electric dam proposal)
2. Lower Fraser (urbanization, industrial development, habitat loss)
3. Elk River (development, increasing selenium levels, wildlife migration issues)

Rivers to Watch in year ahead;

Coquitlam River (sedimentation, urbanization - but progress evident)

Tamihi Creek - (independent power project)

Media only: backgrounder with complete details on each river at www.orcbc.ca/

**NunatuKavut elder refuses to leave jail over Muskrat stance
President Todd Russell says RCMP used an 'amount of force' in incident**

[CBC News](#)

Apr 8, 2013 2:09 PM NT



RCMP officers broke up a NunatuKavut protest outside the Muskrat Falls site on Friday. (CBC)



A frame from video shows RCMP officers lifting Todd Russell after he refused to stop lying down on the ground of a protest site. (CBC)

The president of the Labrador aboriginal group NunatuKavut is worried about the health of an elder who remains in a jail cell, even though authorities say he can leave by signing a routine court order.

NunatuKavut president Todd Russell said elder Jim Learning is refusing to sign the legal papers needed for his release, and that he is now in the fourth day of a hunger strike against the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project.

Russell, Learning and six others were arrested Friday as group members organized what Russell called an orderly demonstration outside the Muskrat Falls construction site.

Learning has refused to sign an undertaking to keep the peace and refrain from blocking traffic. Nalcor Energy last fall obtained an injunction preventing protests outside the site.

"He went before the judge, and he would not sign an undertaking that would have denied him the ability to practise his aboriginal rights," Russell said.

"For that, they remanded him to the Labrador Correctional Centre on Friday, and he has not eaten."

Russell said he is worried about Learning's health.

"Jim is living with cancer. That cancer has metastasized to his bones ... and we are very seriously concerned about the health and welfare of Jim Learning," Russell said.

Asked by CBC News if he had asked Learning to sign the undertaking so that he could be released and obtain medical treatment, Russell said no.

"Jim is not a criminal. Jim is a human being, an aboriginal person with rights, he is a Canadian citizen, and he feels wrongly remanded and held in custody for doing something that he believes he has every right to do."

Meanwhile, Russell said he wants answers on how the RCMP came to make the arrests on Friday.

"Was this politically motivated? We have to get to the bottom of that."

Russell told CBC News Monday that the tenor of what he called an orderly protest changed entirely because of the RCMP.

"Then, as they say, all hell broke loose," he said.

Russell admits that he lay on the ground at the site, which prompted four RCMP officers to lift him and then carry him to a vehicle.

"They basically ripped the clothes off of me and placed me in handcuffs," said Russell, who added that he felt he was dragged to the vehicle.

"They basically used that amount of force to stick me in the back of a vehicle, a police cruiser. It wasn't enjoyable, let me tell you that."

"We cannot stand for that."

NunatuKavut, formerly known as the Labrador Métis Nation, does not have a formal land claim, but has consistently argued that Muskrat Falls is proceeding without the group's consent.

"We cannot accept projects happening on our aboriginal land, infringing upon our aboriginal rights, without accommodation of those aboriginal rights and interests," he said.

First aboriginal youth hockey camp a success

[Comox Valley Record](#)

April 07, 2013 01:00 PM



The first Vancouver Island Aboriginal Youth Hockey Camp was held in Courtenay on March 30-31 with 20 boys and girls participating, many coming from the North Island.

The two-day camp included on-ice sessions broken up by dry-land training and a healthy meal. It was led by Gary Kremsater, who recruited volunteer coaches Gord Lenox, Carver Everson, Quinton Lenox and Allison Abraham.

Combined, the coaches had an impressive resume including recruiting, coaching and playing at a high level themselves. The coaching staff was able to develop individual skill, team play and motivate great work ethic from all the players, a camp observer noted. It was evident that everyone involved had a love of the game which created a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Kremsater was quoted: "Keep kids out of hot water. Put them on ice."

Special thanks to Naomi Coutts from Wachiay Friendship Centre for feeding the players and to Brian McLean Chevrolet for their support.

The camp was sponsored by the Vancouver Island Aboriginal Sport Rec & Physical Activity Partners Council who organize athletic camps and trainings for a variety of sports. Through the efforts of Kim Leming, Vancouver Island Regional Coordinator, and Allison Abraham, member of the women's Ecofish Courtenay Whalers hockey team, the camp was able to be developed. For more information about upcoming aboriginal sports camps contact Kim Leming at kleming@bcaafc.com.

Vancouver Island Aboriginal Youth Hockey Camp

Inuit tale billed as Canada's first 3D animated feature: Legend of Sarila more artistic, less technology heavy than Hollywood films

[Vancouver Sun](#)

April 8, 2013 11:31 AM

Cassandra Szklarski



Itak (Rémy Girard) and villagers in La Légende de Sarila. Courtesy of eOne Films Canada.

TORONTO - When it comes to 3D animated features, it's hard to compete with the mammoth releases of Pixar and DreamWorks.

So in tackling the Inuit-themed drama "The Legend of Sarila," Quebec director Nancy Florence Savard decided she wouldn't even try.

Her debut movie is billed as Canada's first-ever 3D animated feature film, and makes its mark with a strong visual signature that Savard says sets it apart from slick Hollywood offerings.

"We knew that we couldn't do something the same as what they were doing. But we knew also that people would compare us because it's an animation movie," says

Savard, describing her \$8.5-million film as more akin in spirit to the National Film Board.

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"We chose where we will put our energy, and we knew that we didn't have that much money. So instead of trying to do a technology (heavy) movie we said, 'OK, we'll do an artistic movie.'"

"The Legend of Sarila" follows three young Inuit friends who make a last-ditch attempt to save their clan from famine by heading out in search of a fabled land where game and food is plentiful.

Among them is the budding shaman Markussi, voiced by Dustin Milligan, whose increasing powers threaten the status of his community's revered aging shaman Croolik, voiced by Christopher Plummer. Montreal's Genevieve Bujold gives voice to the clan's wise woman Saya, who begins to suspect the true reason for her people's misfortune.

Savard credits the Oscar-winning Plummer with giving the film celebrity heft. But he also infused the villainous Croolik with some much-needed nuance.

"When Christopher Plummer said, 'Yes,' I was really shocked, I was really surprised, I was really happy about that," says Savard, who began her career at the television music channel MusiquePlus, Radio-Canada, Astral and TVA.

"And he played it so different to what we were thinking. He (pushed) the shaman really further than what we were thinking ... He didn't want to be only the bad guy. He wanted to be the one who had suffered a little bit."

"The Legend of Sarila" — recommended for kids age 8 and up — opens Friday in Toronto as part of the TIFF Kids International Film Festival.

The festival kicks off Tuesday with its TIFF Kids school program, offering a mix of shorts, features, foreign, live action and animated fare for audiences age three to 13.

The weekend slate features broader family friendly fare, including "The Legend of Sarila" this weekend and next, and a meet-and-greet with "Sesame Street" stars Elmo, Cookie Monster and Abby Cadabby on April 20 and 21.

Inuit singer Elisapie, who provides the voice for the sea goddess Sedna in "The Legend of Sarila," says she's happy to see a kids film share ancient traditions.

"That to me is super, super important," says Elisapie, who won a Juno in 2005 for aboriginal album of the year as part of the duo Taima.

"I think it's just a nice message about listening to knowledge.... That's what it was all about in the Arctic. It's still very much like that. We still very much rely on our elders. So I think it's beautiful to bring kids characters and elders together and to really feel there's some kind of family structure, community structure."

It wasn't easy to pull all those elements together, says Savard, noting she began this journey 12 years ago.

Intent on crafting a distinct but evocative look, she travelled to Iqaluit to collect photos and visit museums. That research resulted in the film's refined, clean-edged images — all crafted by computer but made to appear as if they were hand-painted.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE FILM STILLS](#)

Savard says the added dimension of 3D helps render the majesty of the frozen tundra, where it can be difficult to discern distance in the vast landscape.

"When you go to the North over there, there's no trees, there's nothing except the Inukshuk. It's hard to see the distance between things. Everything is (hard to judge), it seems to be near but sometimes it's far away."

While crafting the tale, Savard turned to actual kids to get their thoughts on the design of the heroes, the names of the characters and the colours used.

It was important to "know what works and what doesn't and then you're able to try and correct them," she says.

At the same time, she knew that catering to more comic-leaning commercial tastes would not help the story.

"It's like broccoli, if you don't put it on the plate nobody is going to eat it. You have to taste something different sometimes," she says.

"The Legend of Sarila" screens at the TIFF Kids International Film Festival on Friday and Saturday. It also screens April 15 and April 18.

The TIFF Kids fest runs until April 21.

— With files from CP reporter Nick Patch

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Critics slam 'third world' ambulance response times in northern B.C.

[Yahoo! News](#)

April 8, 2013

Steve Mertl



Critics say rural and northern B.C. has "third-world" response times for emergency services. Census data has shown for quite some time that most Canadians live in cities and towns, most hugging our border with the United States.

Not surprisingly, governments direct most of their services to those

communities, which leaves less taxpayer money for rural and especially northern areas.

The gap in services has yawned wider in recent years as governments look for ways to trim budgets by shuttering rural hospitals, centralizing trauma care in larger cities and cutting back on ambulance services.

A [Canadian Press](#) report focusing on emergency response services in British Columbia highlights the problem in the westernmost province but the same is likely true almost everywhere across the country's interior and northern regions.

Critics say rural and northern B.C. has "third-world" response times for emergency services, *CP* reports.

B.C. Auditor General John Doyle issued a report last month on the [B.C. Ambulance Service's air-ambulance service](#) that found it wasn't doing a good job reviewing its dispatch decisions or dealing with safety concerns. Understaffing has meant lesser skilled paramedics responding to calls, the audit found.

"Air ambulance services have a direct impact on peoples' lives." Doyle said in a news release accompanying his report. "We expected to find that the BC Ambulance Service was defining, monitoring and improving standards for its air ambulance service, but that was not the case."

Rural residents already know they're not getting anything like the service their urban counterparts receive.

CP noted the case of Jackie Inyallie, injured in a car accident near Bear Lake, B.C., four years ago. She suffered a broken arm and punctured lung, injuries that probably would have been quickly dealt with at a city hospital.

But it took five hours to get Inyallie to a small northern hospital. Two paramedics-in-training from Mackenzie District Hospital sent to retrieve her were delayed by poor road conditions, *CP* said. She bled to death before doctors could treat her, her foster mother Doreen Spence told *CP*.

"There was absolutely no need for Jackie to pass away with what she had," said Spence.

"We have stretches of highway from Prince George to McBride where there's no phone service. To get an ambulance there takes forever, where a helicopter, if we had one, or two, or whatever [it would be much faster]."

Alberta's [Health Quality Control Council issued a report](#) in January reviewing the province's emergency medical services and making a number of recommendations to improve services in rural areas and for First Nations communities.

But whether the cash-strapped Alberta government can or would implement them remains to be seen.

CBC News reported in February that co-workers of a Fox Creek, Alta., woman called 911 when she began suffering chest pains but were told no ambulance was available to respond. The symptoms turned out not to be heart-related but the incident jarred everyone.

Last year, a 70-year-old woman living in Hudson's Hope, B.C., who did suffer a heart attack died after waiting more than an hour for an ambulance to arrive from 65 kilometres away.

After her foster-daughter's death, Doreen Spence and her husband Brian began to work with [Northern B.C. H.E.R.O.S.](#), which wants to fill the gap in air-ambulance service through a non-profit alternative using helicopters.

B.C. has one fixed-wing air ambulance jet based in Prince George, which is used to take patients to Vancouver for trauma care, *CP* reported.

Les Fisher, chief operating officer for the provincial ambulance service, said it's impractical and costly to dot ambulance helicopters throughout the north.

"It would get them to a community hospital where they still don't have the services that the patient needs," Fisher told *CP*, pointing out choppers can't reach centralized

trauma centres in Vancouver and Victoria without refueling. "So all it does is add extra expense to the system without having any outcome benefit to the patient."

Hans Dysarsz, who started a non-profit air-ambulance service in Alberta three decades ago, said he'd complained to the auditor general before the recent report about the government service's lack of accountability.

"We have third-world response times here," he said.

CP noted that a 2002 study using statistics from the B.C. Coroners Service found the pre-hospital trauma-related death rate in northern B.C. was about six times higher than in the Lower Mainland — 75 per cent versus 12 per cent.

Fisher said his service is doing the best it can under the current setup.

Painful legacy exposed on stage

Drew Hayden Taylor finds some humour in a serious issue

[The Province](#)

April 9, 2013

Stuart Derdeyn

Canada's Indian Residential School System is one of the country's most painful legacies.

After Prime Minister Stephen Harper officially apologized for government's role in the affair on June 2, 2008, First Nations artists are bringing this hidden history into the light.

Kevin Loring's 2009 Governor General Award-winning play *Where the Blood Mixes* was one of the first theatrical works centring on the residential-school experience. Now award-winning Ontario playwright Drew Hayden Taylor presents *God and the Indian*.

The Curve Lake First Nations author of such shows as *Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth* and *Girl Who Loved Her Horses* is renowned for his side-splitting sense of humour. His latest work ventures into very different territory.

"In an ironic sense, Drew has found humour even here, although probably not as obviously as he does in his other work," says director Renae Morrisseau. "But there is a world view we hold in our communities to laugh about the human condition and finding healing in that."

"That has always been an intention in his work and is all the more important with the subject matter."

Pan-handling in front of a Tim Hortons, a Cree woman named Jonny (played by Tantoo Cardinal) sees Anglican Assistant Bishop George King (Michael Kopsa) who she recognizes from her childhood spent at a residential school. She follows him and confronts him as the two are transported back four decades to their mutual experiences at St. David's School. Through their dialogue comes both illumination and the obvious need for questions of resolution around guilt, healing and moving forward.

"The conversation we have in the Canadian public now that this is a historic fact and the government and religious institutions responses to over the past 150 years are so different," Morrisseau says.

"But in the past 20 years, we have come to the point where artists are starting to look at residential-school experience and take that dark history, those formulations of forgiveness, all of those sensibilities of compassion and ideals of a good future and tell the story."

Well known for her theatre, music, TV and film, Morrisseau thinks that *God and the Indian* allows for the entire public to become engaged in these difficult issues.

As curriculum is developed to teach First Nations history in schools, a body of creative work around that can only contribute to social justice and moving forward.

By combining two characters which to some degree embody such a huge number of distinct issues, Hayden Taylor has created something that serves as a metaphor for contemporary Canadian society.

"That there are these artists such as Drew Hayden Taylor or Juno Award-winning musician Murray Porter who put out an album about the residential school experience and the missing native women looking at this history is timely," Morrisseau says. "Because the survivors are fewer in number as years go by and a reconciliation - and the boundaries we place upon it - needs to be reached. It's very complex."

For her part, she's humbled by the experience of directing *God and the Indian*.

sderdeyn@theprovince.com

twitter.com/StuartDerdeyn

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Tlingit baffled at Yukon's rush to sign royalty sharing deal: Teslin Tlingit Council Chief says the Yukon Government has handed them an ultimatum

[CBC News](#)

Apr 9, 2013 1:55 PM CT

The Chief of Teslin Tlingit Council said he's disappointed with the Yukon Government's handling of a royalty sharing arrangement with Yukon First Nations.

Carl Sidney said the government's ultimatum to them to sign an agreement, or have the offer withdrawn to all First Nations with land claims, is unacceptable.

Sidney said he doesn't understand why the Premier is pushing for an agreement at this time.



Carl Sidney, the chief of the Teslin Tlingit Council, said he doesn't understand why the territorial government is rushing them to sign a resource revenue sharing deal. (Teslin Tlingit Council)

"We realize there's not going to be resource royalties sharing for at least 10 years, so we don't know what the rush is. Why it's so important to have a document signed at this time? We could

wait on it and see how we could best involve the First Nations that don't have self-governing agreements," he said.

Sidney said the Teslin Tlingit Council will sign a royalty sharing agreement when it includes everyone.

He added that right now, the Teslin Council has more important matters to deal with, such as education.

Aboriginal leader ends five-day, 15-hour hunger strike

[National Post](#)

13/04/09 3:55 PM ET

Jesse M. Kelly



Ryan Remiorz / The Canadian Press Grand Elder Raymond Robinson of Cross Lake Manitoba greets supporters at Concordia University Wednesday, April 3, 2013 in Montreal. Robinson ended his hunger strike five days later.

An aboriginal leader has put an end to an all out hunger strike that lasted five days and fifteen hours.

Raymond Robinson, a Grand Elder from Cross Lake, Manitoba sent out a tweet on the social media site Twitter Tuesday, announcing that he had ended his hunger strike at midnight Monday.

Robinson maintains he started his hunger strike at 9 a.m. last Wednesday.

Originally Robinson said his hunger strike would continue until perceived changes to First Nations funding agreements were revoked.

Robinson was also asking for the Government of Canada to sit down with his First Nations leaders on a "nation to nation" basis.

Dr. Blake Woodside medical director of the program for eating disorders at Toronto General Hospital said that, assuming no organs were damaged, Robinson should have an uneventful recovery.

Robinson has yet to issue a statement explaining why he decided to end his hunger strike.

Sto: lo elders rallying: Program closure has CEG elders going public

[Chilliwack Times](#)

April 9, 2013

Cornelia Naylor

Aboriginal elders will rally at the Sto: lo Nation grounds Wednesday to protest a "moral injustice" they say they have suffered at the hands of the Coqualeetza Cultural Education Centre (CCEC) board of directors.

The Coqualeetza Elders Group (CEG) has been a part of CCEC for almost 40 years, but in January, members say the CCEC board suddenly and without consultation announced it was dissolving the program and, further, that any group that remained would be forbidden to use the name "Coqualeetza."

Members of the group, which meets weekly for luncheons and engages in cultural activities in the community, said they have tried unsuccessfully to meet with the board to resolve the issue and now have no choice but to make their grievance public.

"What they're doing is totally disrespectful," CEG president Virginia Joe said of the board, "and in our culture respect is one of the biggest things that we talk about."

The Jan. 30 letter announcing the dissolution of the group provides no rationale for the board's decision, stating only that the board had "reviewed [its] mandate regarding program funding and service delivery" and was dissolving the group "following the CCEC mandate and policies, the voices of [its] supporting Sto: lo elders, along with the consultation of [its] Sto: lo leadership and [its] core funder FNCCEC."

CEG members say they weren't consulted and that they don't know why their group is being dissolved after almost 40 years.

"That's what's so baffling and frustrating," said group member Shirley Leon, who managed CCEC for 19 years between 1987 and 2007. "All I can see and feel is the hurt that the elders feel. They've been so loyal and committed to the cultural centre, and then this, to say we're dissolved."

Leon said the relationship between the board and the elders has been strained since the board raised concerns about irregularities in the elder group's bank account about a year and a half ago.

But Leon said she would be surprised if that were the reason behind the dissolution of the group because the elders' have since put measures in place to address the problem and the CEG bank account has always been separate from CCEC anyway.

Sto: lo Tribal Council president and Grand Chief Doug Kelly, who used to sit on the CCEC board, has been quoted as saying the board's decision was likely motivated by "cold, hard economics," but that doesn't add up for the elders either.

Traditionally, CEG has received a \$4,000 allotment from the cultural centre every year, as well as \$5,000 for annual cultural experience trips. Since 2011, however, the elders say their group hasn't gotten any money from CCEC, and last summer it laid off CEG's longtime coordinator.

But it's not the first time the cultural centre has been short on money to give to the elders, and the group doesn't see why it should suddenly be disbanded and forbidden to use the name "Coqualeetza" because of funding cuts.

"It is understandable if the BoD has insufficient funds to continue the annual allotment of \$4,000 and financial contribution to the Annual Cultural Trip," reads an April 3 CEG press release. "We have been in that situation many times in the past, but to dissolve our group is unacceptable."

Despite elders' disappointment, hurt and frustration at the CCEC's decision to disband their group, Leon said Wednesday's rally is not intended to be divisive.

"We've made it clear that we're not angry at anybody," she said. "We just want to help educate because that's what elders are supposed to be doing is providing wise leadership role modelling."

There's no question, however, the CCEC's efforts to dissolve the nearly 40-year-old elders group has touched off strong emotions.

"It's like they turned their backs on us and gave us a slap," Joe said. "And some of these people that are doing this against us, their grandparents or parents were the starters of this group. For me, that even makes it more disrespectful."

CCEC board president Brenda Point did not return calls and emails from the Times.

CCEC manager Patricia Raymond-Adair replied to requests for an interview in an email that stated, "As per our leadership direction- we are not commenting."

The Coqualeetza Elders Group rally Wednesday will begin at 1 p.m. with a march at the Coqualeetza grounds from Building #5 to the longhouse, where the group will gather for speeches.

cnaylor@chilliwacktimes.com

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Inuit children's centre expands to Overbrook

[YourOttawaRegion](#)

April 10, 2013

Michelle Nash



TD Bank Group donates house to youth organization. Aneeka Anderson and Abigail Carleton performs a song as a thank you to TD Bank Group for the donation of a new youth house in Overbrook. Michelle Nash/Metroland

Inuit youth in Ottawa now have new digs to spend time learning about their culture, participate in after school programming or a positive place to hang out thanks to a recent donation.

The TD Bank Group donated \$350,000 so the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre could purchase a new building to expand its programming for youth age 12 to 19.

The new youth centre, located at 76 Queen Mary St. in Overbrook, was officially opened on April 3.

Youth volunteer Christopher Cameron Mott said he was eternally grateful for the generous donation.

"We needed to expand and now we have that place for the youth to blossom and grow," he said.

The 21-year-old said when he first came to Ottawa he had a tough time, but found solace in the children's centre and other Aboriginal programming in the city. He said

to have a business support an organization such as this one makes him feel secure that other youth will not have to experience what he did.

"If it wasn't for (the children's centre) I don't know what I would become, I don't know where I would be," Mott said.

The new centre adds to existing space located in Vanier on McArthur Avenue, which serves Inuit children and youth, specifically infants to age 13, and their families. The expansion will allow the older youth to have their own space.

Mott is the only male role model at the centre and says he helps out because it's important that anyone who may need help, guidance or advice can turn to him.

Karen Baker-Anderson, the centre's executive director, said Inuit families who settle in Ottawa want to stay connected to their culture and pass it on to their children.

"They want their kids to know and appreciate where they've come from," Baker-Anderson said. "So we go beyond re-settlement support programs and incorporate and celebrate Inuit education, values, traditions, art and language into the curriculum."

The building, a newly renovated home has plenty of space for the youth to run around and enjoy themselves, and is even equipped with a wall-sized fish tank in the front room.

Mayor Jim Watson and Terry Audla, president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, also attended the official opening, which included placing the final rock on top of an Inukshuk that will remain out front of the building.

Baker-Anderson's daughter, Aneeka Anderson, and Abigail Carleton performed a song in traditional Inuit clothing as a thank you to the bank for helping the centre expand.

Emotional after watching her daughter perform, Baker Anderson said the performance defines exactly what the centre is all about: keeping culture alive in an urban community.

For Mott, he is pleased the donation will help more youth have a chance to participate in the centre's culture-rich programming.

"Just having this strong community in Ottawa, just having some place to go, it's so important," he said.

LNG industry must address environmental concerns, say B.C. First Nations: Air quality, tanker traffic, potential for spills are major issues

[Vancouver Sun](#)

April 9, 2013

Gordon Hamilton



Hartley Bay. Photograph by: Debra Brash, Vancouver Sun

Coastal First Nations affected by Shell Canada's proposed liquefied natural gas terminal at Kitimat say air quality and the number of vessels that will pass through their fishing grounds are emerging as the main issues they want to see addressed if the \$12-billion-plus project is to go ahead.

First Nations have not taken a stand against the plants, key to a \$50-billion plan to link B.C. gas fields with markets in Asia. But the plants, pipelines and ships that will transport the LNG to Asia need to accommodate the environmental concerns being raised, said Art Sterritt, executive director of Coastal First Nations, an umbrella group representing eight First Nations.

LNG Canada, the company formed to build and operate the terminal by Shell and its partners Mitsubishi Corp., Korea Gas Corp. and PetroChina, is planning a project that could process up to 24 million tonnes of LNG a year, requiring from 170 to 350 ships a year to transport it to Asia. It

is the largest of three LNG projects at Kitimat and is already engaged in discussions with First Nations and the province over impacts.

LNG Canada provided details in a project description filed last week with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the B.C. Environmental Office. The project description is the starting point for research to quantify the impacts.

“Our concerns are around air quality,” said Sterritt. “Gitga’at down at the end of channel from Kitimat has expressed extreme concern about air quality. I live at Terrace, which is the other end of the air shed, and we are concerned about the sulphur dioxide and nitrous dioxide and CO₂.

“Coastal First Nations is not supportive of an industry that is going to pollute the area.”

Impacts LNG Canada identifies include:

- Degradation of air quality “through combustion of fossil fuels, acid gas incineration, and potential flaring, with the potential to contribute to inhalation-based health effects.”
- Changes in marine mammal and fish behaviour due to noise from the ships.
- Changes along the tanker route such as local vessels being affected by the tanker traffic and changes in air quality caused by ships’ emissions.

It’s not just LNG Canada but the cumulative impacts of all the development plans that are a concern, said Elliss Ross, chief councillor of the Haisla First Nation. The Haisla generally support the LNG projects, he said.

“The key words are ‘there could be’ (health impacts from emissions). It doesn’t matter if it’s a project description or an impacts benefit agreement with us. It has to be addressed. It has to be mitigated,” Ross said.

The Gitxaala, whose main village and fishing reserves are along Principe Channel, the route LNG tankers will transit along the coast, say the frequency of tankers is expected to have a wide range of impacts. Disruptions to fishing, noise, waves, ships’ emissions and the potential for bunker fuel spills are just a few of the issues, said Robert Janes, a lawyer representing the First Nation. Gitxaala has filed lawsuits over the issuance of an LNG export permit to Shell by the National Energy Board before the impacts of its project are known.

“The biggest problem is that each of these applications is being dealt with on a project-by-project basis,” Janes said. “The Gitxaala experience the added effect of all of these. From Shell’s point of view, this is just 350 vessels. But from Gitxaala’s point of view, it is 350 Shell vessels, several

hundred Enbridge vessels, several hundred KLNG vessels, a couple of hundred BCLNG vessels and pretty soon you always have large tankers in Principe Channel moving through fishing areas,” Janes said.

The end result would be the Gitxaala would likely have to abandon their fishing grounds, he said.

First Nations concerns do not mean they are opposed to the LNG projects, said Sterritt. There are ways the impacts can be mitigated, he said, such as using natural gas or low-sulphur emission diesel to power the tankers, using electricity from the grid to power the terminals and involving First Nations in the projects. First Nations are pushing for the development of wind turbines they will operate to supplement power from the grid. That would leave an infrastructure legacy in the northwest after the 25-year life of the LNG terminals, to help compensate for the loss of fishing grounds, Sterritt said.

Sterritt said Shell has at least made its plans public, so First Nations can now respond.

“We are actually happy that Shell has finally printed out the processes they will be using,” he said.

ghamilton@vancouver.sun.com

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